

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/992,546
Filing Date: November 6, 2001
Applicant: Melkent, et al.
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned
Title: IMAGE GUIDED SPINAL SURGERY GUIDE, SYSTEM,
AND METHOD FOR USE THEREOF
Attorney Docket: 5074A-000021/COB

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Applicants hereby petition under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a four month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Applicants have included a Fee Transmittal with this response for such extension of time.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-51 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.